



## U18 Championships – West Launceston BC – 15th-17th January 2018



*Winners: Patrick, Lachie, Logyn*

### Day One – Triples

#### Teams:

Liam Davern  
Josh Brooks  
Riley Kuys

Josh Walker-Davis  
Henry Hollingsworth  
Chase Kubacki

Lachie Sims  
Logyn Curtis  
Patrick Oldham



*Runner-Up: Riley, Liam, Josh*

### Round one – L Davern d J Walker-Davis 24-7

The more experienced crew of Liam's saw him get off to a great start against Josh, who had taken the two youngest bowlers in our squad, Henry 11 and Chase 10 years old. The difference really came down to one team scoring multiples and the other managing mostly singles.

### Round two – L Sims d J Walker-Davis 17-11

Josh and his young team once again taking on a more experienced crew of Lachie, Logyn and Patrick; and again it was a case of one team nabbing multiples versus being able to only score single shots the difference here with both teams winning nine ends apiece, but Lachie's favoured crew getting the job done in a tight tussle (scores were 7-all at end 11).

### Round three – L Sims d L Davern 24-11

The final round saw the two winning teams match up to decide the winner. Lachie, Logyn and Patrick got off to a fast start in this game leading by 12 shots at the halfway point of the game. Liam, Josh and Riley competed hard winning eight of the 18 ends but as was the case in the previous two games, conceding multiples to a fancied opposition is always going to make the job very difficult, with Lachie and his crew going on to grab the win and the triples championship 24-11.

## Day Two – Pairs

### Teams:

Josh Walker-Davis  
Henry Hollingsworth

Josh Brooks  
Riley Kuys

Liam Davern  
Bayley McCarthy

Lachie Sims  
Chase Kubacki



**Winners: Lachie and Chase**

### Round one:

With some interesting team combinations this Pairs Championship always looked unpredictable with any of the four teams a chance of winning it.

#### **J Walker-Davis d L Davern 13-10**

In this opening game Josh and Henry had a flying start over Liam and Bayley, leading 12-1 after eight ends, and in a 12-end contest this makes the task very difficult, but Liam and Bayley bounced back to claim three of the final four ends to make the final result much more respectable.

#### **L Sims d J Brooks 13-8**

Just like the other game one team got off to a huge start, with Lachie and Chase nabbing the first six ends to lead 8-0 at the halfway mark! The concluding six ends were shared, and for Josh and Riley they were able to maintain a modest margin of five by the time they completed the 12 ends.

**Round two:** Two awesome one-shot games right here!

#### **J Walker-Davis d L Sims 13-12**

Josh and Henry got the good start in this game to be leading 7-1 early, then dropped a couple of ends to tighten the scoreboard to be leading 7-6 at the halfway mark. Lachie and Chase then conceded the next four ends to be seven behind with two to play, but by picking up a one and finishing with a five it made the difference just one after the twelfth end.

#### **J Brooks d L Davern 10-9**

The game started with both teams evenly matched, 5-4 to Liam and Bayley after five ends. Liam then picked up a three on the sixth end to lead 8-4; Josh and Riley then went on to pick up singles on each of the next four ends to make the score 8-all with two ends to play. Liam took the advantage on end 11 with a single and on the final end, and just one bowl to come from Josh, two down at the head, with sweaty palms, played the bowl of his life to trail the jack and pick up two, and the game 10-9 - fantastic finish for sure!!!!

**Round three:** One team on two wins; could they go through undefeated to win the title??? Or would the results here mean we go to margins???

**L Sims d L Davern 11-9**

Lachie needed the win in case of an 'upset' in the other game to have a chance of winning the title. Liam was looking to chalk up his first win after being so close in the last game. This game was close throughout, Liam and Bayley leading for the majority of the game by a slender margin with both teams only a shot or two apart right up to end ten, with Liam leading 9-7 and just two ends to play. A little bit of déjà vu from the previous game; Lachie and Chase picked up a three on end 11 to take the lead by a single shot going into the last, and with a one on the last end they went on to win it 11-9, and with an upset brewing on the other rink, also now a chance to win the title.

**J Brooks d J Walker-Davis 14-11**

Josh Walker-Davis only needed the win this game to claim the pairs title, and while the opening few ends were tight, by end seven they led Josh Brooks and Riley 10-3. Ends eight and nine saw the Josh/Riley combination pick up five shots to make it close; 10-8 to the Josh/Henry combination. Josh and Henry steadied the ship on end ten picking up a one and going into the final two ends three shots clear. It wasn't enough with Josh Brooks and Riley scoring a four and a two on the final two ends to take out the match 14-11 and leave the Championships poised with three of the four teams on two wins!

**The result:**

In what was a close battle all day, the difference being just a few shots between all of the teams in each game. Some awesome bowls were played, but coming out on top with a margin of +6 was the Lachie Sims/Chase Kubacki team. Josh Walker-Davis and Henry Hollingsworth finished +1, while the Josh Brooks/Riley Kuys combo on -1; what a finish; all bowlers should be so proud of their efforts!

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**Day Three – Singles**

**Section One:**

Josh Walker-Davis  
Chase Kubacki  
Logyn Curtis

**Section Two:**

Josh Brooks  
Riley Kuys  
Lachie Sims



*Finalists: Josh Walker-Davis, Lachie Sims*

The final day of the U18 Championships and the Singles title was up for grabs. Two sections of three players, with the sections winners going onto the final at the end of the day.

#### **Section one:**

Josh Walker-Davis took on the youngest player in the Bowls North U18 squad first up, at just 10 years of age young Chase Kubacki fresh off his pairs title the day before was backing up for his third day and growing in confidence with every bowl he plays. Josh controlled the match to take out the win but Chase battled hard right to the end.

The next game saw female Tasmanian U18 representative, Logyn Curtis take on young Chase, with Chase first on the scoreboard and off to a quick start to lead 6-0 early. Logyn realised she was in for a contest and had to battle hard to get on even terms and took until end ten before she had the advantage. Her experience over the final few ends was enough to get her through but Chase can be very proud of his efforts this week.

The last game of the section was the two winners facing off, both U18 state reps, and both keen to make the Final. It was Josh that got the good start, but Logyn was not going to let him have it all his own way, with the scores 5-4 to Josh after six ends. From there though the extra experience started to show with Josh lifting his intensity to go onto win comfortably in the end but with a Triples title earlier in the week I am sure Logyn will be very happy with her bowls this week.

#### **Section two:**

Playing in the teams events together over the last two days, the first game in this section saw Josh Brooks and Riley Kuys going head-to-head today. The match-up was tight early and for a while it seemed it would be long game ahead, but Riley picked up eight singles while just conceding three to Josh to establish a nice break of 15 to 9. The game ended with Riley picking up three ends of two, dropping a three as well, but it was enough to give him victory over Josh.

Josh Brooks then had to back up against Lachie Sims, who turns 18 at the end of the week to complete his time in the junior ranks. Lachie had come to play it seemed, conceding just two singles and picking up multiples each time to win in very quick fashion. While this might seem disappointing, Josh should be stoked with his pairs (skip) performance, showing he is cool under pressure winning two games, both of them 'come from behind' efforts.

This left the winners to compete for a finals spot, and in what seemed on paper as potentially a forgone conclusion, the game itself was anything but that! Lachie won the opening end with a two, but Riley won the next four to lead 7-2; Lachie fought back to make it 7-7, Riley got away again to make it 10-7. I think then Lachie realised he was in a contest and picked up the next five ends to lead 18-10 and potentially shut down any prospect of an upset. Riley did not lie down though to get to 18-15, but Lachie closed it out with a three to reach the final. Riley has got to be very happy with his performance for sure, saying before the game all he wanted to do was improve on his score from last year against Lachie; his score was zero! So he certainly did that and more. Well done.

## **The Final:**

### **Josh Walker-Davis d Lachie Sims 21-19!!!**

Last year Lachie won the title with his last bowl over Josh Appleyard, who was playing in his last Bowls North U18 event. This year it is Lachie playing U18's for the final time and is matched up with another 'Josh' this season; Josh Walker-Davis. Josh has started 2018 in the best possible manner winning the State U18 Singles last week and this final could be another nail-biter, just as it was in 2017...

Lachie got on the scoreboard first, establishing a 6-0 lead early and continued to maintain the advantage as the game progressed to lead 11-5. Josh won the next three ends to make it 11-all, and for the spectators and I guess the players too, it was game on!

They traded fours ends of two shots each to take the score onto 15 apiece; with 21 being the target to decide the title. Lachie gained the advantage once more with a three to lead 18-15, but Josh was quick to respond, picking up a two to leave him a shot behind. Lachie scored a one to get him ever so close to the finish line and now led it 19-17. Just like it had been throughout this final stretch, Josh was not done with and picked up a two to make it 19-19 leaving the game on a knife's edge to see who was going to come out on top. Josh was holding game but Lachie had last bowl - reminiscent of one year prior; would he steal it from his opponent again???? Not this time, missed the head and left Josh with the two shots and the Bowls North U18 Singles title for 2018! A super contest from two young super talents in the sport - all the best to Lachie Sims now as he leaves the junior ranks behind him, but leaving knowing that the region is in good hands with the bowlers we have had competing this week in the regional championships!



*Singles winner: Josh Walker-Davis*

What a fitting way to close it out for sure - a huge thanks to everyone involved over the three days; the West Launceston Bowls Club and its members/volunteers, the officials, the supporters, both family and friends, and of course the players; we saw some new faces out there again this year, from as young as ten all the way to Lachie who turns 18 on Friday (19 January). I am sure the players all took something away from the three days of competition, no matter at what level in the sport they are, experience and confidence is always something you can continue to develop, especially in a sport such as lawn bowls. Congratulations to the winners and we look forward to the same success of this event next year. It was a pleasure for me to be a part of it again this season and very happy that everyone who supported the event seemed to enjoy themselves – thanks heaps!!!!

**Mark Dickinson**

**Bowls North; Youth Development**

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